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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Letter dated 18 January 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the accusations — which are unfounded and represent nothing but overt forms of propaganda and cheap provocation — directed against my country and contained in many letters from the representative of Israel, including those in document A/59/667-S/2005/14, which we do not expect to be the last. In that regard, I should like to state the following:

– All the dangers and threats to peace and security to which the region is exposed are primarily due to the terrorism practised by Israel in order to perpetuate its illegal occupation of Arab territories. It is not unknown to the international community that Israel — the occupying Power — is continuing its unlawful building of the wall erected on occupied Palestinian lands in defiance of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, the highest legal authority of the United Nations. In addition, Israel has not ceased confiscating Palestinian lands, destroying houses and agricultural lands and imposing harsher restrictions on the movement of Palestinian citizens and on areas where the wall is being constructed, including its system of permits, which resemble the system of apartheid. The crimes of the Israeli occupation authorities, reflected in random killing — whether in Palestinian lands or outside them — constitute a systematic policy of Israel, despite continued condemnations by the international community and its demands that Israel cease practising that policy. In addition, Israel's settlement policies in occupied Arab territories in the Golan and in Palestine, which constitute war crimes, not to mention other kinds of crime, have continued. No less than 4,000 Palestinians have been slaughtered in a period of nearly three years, including hundreds of children, women and other innocent people. At the same time as Israel alleges that the Lebanese side has violated the Blue Line, it

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should be mentioned that Israel has committed no less than 1,000 violations of the Blue Line within the past year alone.

- The Syrian Arab Republic was one of the first countries to have suffered from terrorism and to call for action to combat and counteract it. The Syrian Arab Republic is making every effort to coordinate with a large number of countries and with regional and international bodies in opposing terrorism and terrorists. However, the irony here is the accusation by Israel that everyone who resists its terrorism and calls for an end to its occupation of Arab territories is practising terrorism. This policy has become clear to everyone.

- Israel refers selectively in its letters to certain international resolutions, yet it is well known that Israel is the party which throughout its history has not respected international legitimacy or its resolutions. Rather, Israel has made its challenge to United Nations resolutions the main pillar of its foreign policy, and especially its contempt for United Nations resolutions concerning the ending of Israeli occupation of Arab territories and the restoration to the Palestinian people of their lawful rights. In this connection, we mention only the resolutions which the countries of the world agreed upon as the way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and especially Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), not to mention hundreds of other resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly. The Syrian Arab Republic, on the basis of its belief in a just and comprehensive peace, hopes that the international community will put an end to Israel's disregard of its obligations under international law and international humanitarian law and will not permit it to remain above international law.

- Lastly, the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that it has made a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East its strategic goal. The Syrian leadership has reiterated its desire for a resumption of the peace process in order to achieve such a peace, in implementation of the United Nations resolutions in question and on the basis of the outcome of the Madrid Peace Conference, the principle of land for peace and the Arab principles adopted at the Beirut Summit in March 2002. However, Israel scorned those appeals and placed many conditions on such action, unsupported by any logic, its objective being merely to deceive the international community, distort realities and continue its practice of State terrorism.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 148 "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", 36 "The situation in the Middle East" and 37 "Question of Palestine" and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fayssal **Mekdad**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative